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Making Global Fund Money Work for Communities: Community Partnership Consultation

Meeting Report

Pattaya, Thailand, 7-8 December 2011



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Acknowledgements

This report documents the presentations and discussions made during the “Making Global Fund Money Work for Communities: Community Partnership Consultation” held in Pattaya, Thailand on 7-8 December 2011.

It aims to draw attention to the issues associated with how current approaches to Global Fund proposals and grants management processes have hindered grantees’ abilities to inclusively develop and effectively implement rights-based programmes that best serve their communities. The report provides a wide array of recommendations for the Global Fund Secretariat, Board, Local Fund Agents and Global Fund technical partners.

This global consultation of key populations was jointly organized by UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre (APRC), Open Society Foundations (OSF) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) Secretariat in close partnership with UNAIDS Asia-Pacific Regional Support Team, KHANA International AIDS Alliance and the Coalition of Asia Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS (7 Sisters).

Many people were involved in making this meeting possible. The meeting organizers would like to gratefully acknowledge all the participants for their valuable participation and inputs. A list of participants is included in the Annex of this report.

The meeting was facilitated and the report drafted by David Barr of The Fremont Center.

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Ian Mungall, UNDP Knowledge Management and Communications Analyst, designed this report.

Acronyms and abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
APN+	Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS
APNSW	Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers
ART	Anti-retroviral therapy
ARV	Anti-retroviral drugs
CBO	Community-based organization
CSAT	Civil Society Action Team
CSO	Civil society organization
CSPRN	Civil Society Principal Recipient Network
CCM	Country Coordinating Mechanism
COIN	Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral
CSS	Community Systems Strengthening
DIVA	Diversity in Action
EPOS	EPOS Health Management
FPM	Fund Portfolio Manager
FTA	Free trade agreement
FTT	Financial transaction tax
G20	The Group of Twenty
GFATM	Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HLM	High-level meeting
HSS	Health systems strengthening
IAC	International AIDS Conference
ICAAP	International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific
IDUs	Injecting drug users
IEC	Information, education and communication
ITPC	International Treatment Preparedness Coalition
JPR	Joint programme review
KAPs	Key affected populations
LFA	Local Fund Agent
M & E	Monitoring and evaluation
MARPs	Most-at-risk populations
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MSM	Men who have sex with men
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NSA	National Strategy Application
OIG	Office of Inspector General
OSF	Open Society Foundations
PCB	Programme Coordinating Board
PLHIV	People living with HIV
PR	Principal Recipient
RCC	Rolling Continuation Channel
RCM	Regional Coordinating Mechanism
RST	Regional Support Team
SDA	Service Delivery Area
SR	Sub-recipient

SSR	Sub-sub-recipient
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
TRIPS+	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Plus
TRP	Technical Review Panel
TSF-SEAP	Technical Support Facility for Southeast Asia and Pacific
TWG	Technical working group
UA	Universal access
UCC	UNAIDS Country Coordinator
UCO	UNAIDS Country Office
UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNAIDS RST	UNAIDS Regional Support Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN ESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNICEF	The United Nations Children's Fund
VCT	Voluntary counseling and testing
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

In December 2011, UNDP, Open Society Foundations, and the Global Fund partnered with UNAIDS, KHANA International AIDS Alliance and 7 Sisters to convene the 'Making Global Fund Money Work for Communities: Community Partnership Consultation' in Pattaya, Thailand. The consultation's aim was to document the experience of participants in the development and implementation of Global Fund multi-country grants and generate policy guidance and recommendations for the Global Fund and other stakeholders to strengthen the effectiveness, management and oversight of these funding streams. These recommendations are meant to ensure that community-based organizations can fully participate in Global Fund HIV programmes, inform the recently approved Human Rights Strategy and better meet the needs of their communities.

Representatives from over 30 community-based organizations and individuals from key affected populations and people living with HIV representing Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Latin America attended the meeting. The participants had substantive experience and have played key roles during various phases of Global Fund multi-country grants, including proposal formulation, grant negotiation, programme implementation and evaluation. The Global Fund Secretariat and UN-based partners were also represented.

Since the approval of Round 9 and 10 multi-country grants, specific issues relating to community-based organizations' grant management and implementation have been highlighted through both formal and informal communications with the Global Fund:

- Current Global Fund grant signing, management, programme review and ongoing disbursement processes and procedures are designed primarily for government-led national grants. These risk mitigation structures often create a substantive barrier to community-based organizations, which serve as Sub-recipients (SRs) and Sub-sub-recipient (SSRs) under multi-country grants and national grants.
- Risk management, overall expectation and communication needs of the Principle Recipients (PRs), SRs and SSRs are often inconsistent and different from traditional Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM)-focused countries.
- The role and operability of the Local Fund Agent (LFA) under community-led multi-country grants is perceived to be inconsistent and often impeded grant progress.

The participants raised serious concerns about how current approaches to Global Fund proposal and grants management have hindered grantees abilities to develop and implement programmes that best serve their communities. The report provides a wide array of recommendations for the Global Fund Secretariat, Board, LFAs and Global Fund technical partners. The key recommendations are summarized below. More detailed recommendations and background information are contained in the body of the report.

The consultation took place only two weeks following the Global Fund Board meeting of November 2011. At that meeting, serious shortfalls in funding were revealed leading to the cancellation of Round 11, a withdrawal of further support to G20 countries, the development of a Transitional Funding Mechanism and revised guidelines for Phase Two renewals. The Board also approved a new proposal development and review process

that left unanswered many questions about if and how multi-country proposals can be developed and supported. Finally, the Board approved a specific Human Rights Strategic Objective intended to: (a) Integrate human rights considerations throughout the grant cycle; (b) Increase investments in programmes that address human rights-related barriers to access; and (c) Ensure that the Global Fund does not support programmes that infringe human rights. The consultation provided an important first opportunity for community representatives to hear about these Board decisions, discuss their impact and develop advocacy strategies in response.

One overarching recommendation is the need to document the effectiveness of multi-country grants in serving key affected populations. Services and advocacy provided for and by key affected populations is an essential component of success in the response to HIV, TB and malaria. By documenting the results of these programmes, the Global Fund and other funding mechanisms will be encouraged to further expand support for these efforts.

Key Issues and Recommendations

Proposal Development

- The kind of expertise required to understand and evaluate multi-country proposals developed and led by organizations representing most at-risk populations is not well defined by the Global Fund.

Recommendation: The Secretariat needs to develop criteria for improved community-level expertise on the Technical Review Panel (TRP).

- The Global Fund Secretariat needs to explain how the revised application and approval process will be applied to multi-country proposals.

Recommendation: The Global Fund should recognize the added value of community-driven multi-country proposals, and in doing so, should consider development of separate application procedures and review processes tailored to meet the needs of such proposals. At the least, guidelines for multi-country proposal development using the new iterative process should be issued by the Secretariat.

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